IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 8, amend the paragraph starting at line 2 and ending at line 14 as follows:

--The knife blade body portion 14 of the knife blade part 10 includes a leading edge or knife edge 12 and an opposite trailing edge 20. The leading surfaces include the upper leading surface 28. In the example, upper leading surface 28 forms a 45° angle with respect to the general plane of the pelletizing die plate 210 (the plane of cutting). Although other angles are possible, the 45° angle promotes a proper movement of the pellets away from the cutting face of the pelletizing die plate 210 while also providing good hydrodynamic qualities. The knife blade body portion 16 includes a lower ~~side~~ leading surface 18 which extends rearwardly from the knife edge 12. This surface 18 is somewhat recessed with respect to the knife edge 12 in the preferred embodiment (an undercut structure). Following the leading surfaces of the knife blade body portion 14, an upper transition zone is provided followed by the upper trailing surface 22 and a lower transition zone is provided followed by the lower trailing surface 24. The upper trailing surface 22 and the lower trailing surface 24 converge at trailing edge 20 to form a hydrodynamically shaped blade body portion 14. These features are best seen in Figures 4 and 5.--

Page 9, amend the paragraph starting at line 5 and ending at line 20 as follows:

--Figure 6 shows a top view of an alternative embodiment of a knife blade part 110 according to the invention. The knife blade part includes a knife blade portion 114 with a blade body connection portion 116. The blade body connection portion 116 includes fastener

openings 132 and 134 for connection of the knife blade part 110 to a cutting head 9. The knife blade part 110 also has an outer end 126 which is similar to the outer end 26 of the knife blade part 10. However, the leading edge or knife edge 112 has a particular sickle shape. This sickle shape particularly includes a knife blade body portion 114 which has a cutting blade leading edge which progresses from a forward most or leading location toward a rear-most or trailing location as this leading blade edge extends radially outwardly from the blade body connection portion 116 to the radially outer end 126. This curve or trailing off from the leading most radially inner part of the leading edge 112 to the trailing most radially outer part of the leading edge may be provided with a constant curvature. The sickle shape provides advantageous blade cutting dynamics and particularly avoids a chopping cut and improves the nature of the slice cut so as to improve pellet quality. This allows for a better distribution of loads on the pellets and allows a softening of the cut. The cutting dynamics are generally improved with improved pellet quality.--.

Pages 9 and 10, amend the paragraph starting on page 9 at line 21 and ending on page 10 at line 7 as follows:

-- Further, the knife blade according to the second embodiment of Figure 6 advantageously also has a hydrodynamic knife blade body portion 114 as can be seen in Figures 8 and 9. The knife blade body portion 114 has a an upper leading surface 128 which is a continuation from the knife edge or leading edge 112. The knife edge or leading edge 112 has a lower side surface 118 which continues substantially toward the trailing edge 120 at a